



**State of Idaho**

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

**1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098**

**Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866**

Copy

**DIRK KEMPTHORNE**  
GOVERNOR

**KARL J. DREHER**  
DIRECTOR

September 8, 1999

Ron Schnabel, Manager  
Big Lost Irrigation District  
PO Box 205  
Mackay, ID 83251

Doug Rosenkrance, Watermaster  
Water District 34  
PO Box 53  
Mackay, ID 83251

Re: Correspondence Dated August 8, 1999 and August 23, 1999 from Directors of Big Lost Irrigation District

Dear Gentlemen:

I have reviewed the above referenced letters from the Big Lost River Irrigation District (BLRID) Directors that provide additional information regarding Ron Schnabel's letter of August 4, 1999 and recent BLRID Board of Directors meetings. I have personally discussed the issues raised in these letters with each of you. My last discussion of these issues with you was on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

It is my understanding that a majority of the Board of Directors voted to authorize storage overdrafts, or the use of stored water for those BLRID patrons who had no other sources of water, provided that these patrons and their lands were within the boundaries of the BLRID. IDWR does not regulate or control the allocation or distribution of stored water used within the authorized place of use in accordance with a valid water right to store water. Given this understanding at the time of our last discussion, you both felt that there were no unauthorized diversions either within or outside of the BLRID, except for the McDonald diversion pump in the Arco Canal, which is located outside of the BLRID. We discussed the facts relative to the McDonald situation and agreed that the watermaster would take action to curtail McDonald.

Pursuant to our discussions, I encourage Water District 34 to coordinate with the BLRID and work with appropriate IDWR staff in getting ditch riders appointed as deputy watermasters in accordance with Sections 42-605 and 42-801, Idaho Code. To be further consistent with Section 42-801, Idaho Code, as well as Water District 34 water distribution rules, BLRID should provide written requests to the watermaster for delivery of stored water or rotation credit water so that the watermaster has documentation of his control of headgates from public water courses in the Water District.

Other relative matters that we discussed include:

1) Measurement of Canal Diversions

A recent IDWR inspection of several canal diversions below Mackay Reservoir revealed concerns regarding the adequacy of a few measuring devices. We all agreed that adequate

measuring devices would improve water distribution and water accounting procedures. I again encourage both districts to coordinate efforts in identifying and resolving measuring device concerns.

2) Water Right Accounting Program Updates

IDWR staff is currently working toward including diversions and river reaches above the Mackay Reservoir in the water right accounting program. IDWR plans to have these reaches included in the accounting program before the next irrigation season.

We appreciate your continued cooperation.

Respectfully,

Norman C. Young  
Administrator, Water Management Division

Enclosure

Cc: Don Aikele, BLRID Director  
Vivian Ellewein, BLRID Director  
Charles Huggins, BLRID Director  
Todd Perkes, BLRID Director  
Lynn Rothwell, BLRID Director  
Ron Schnabel, Big Lost Irrigation District Manager  
IDWR Eastern Region